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LETTERS

**Myth
Making**

In his article "Ten Myths About the Reagan Debacle" (March 22), I found William Safire's observations to be shrewd and surprisingly objective, as I confess to anticipating an impassioned apology for the Reagan Administration's indefensible operational blunders.

One point, however, merits further amplification. I agree with Mr. Safire's contention that William Buckley's capture and subsequent torture may well have provided an extra impetus to former Director of Central Intelligence William J. Casey — and, perhaps, to the Administration as a whole — to pursue the risky arms-for-hostages option. Quite understandably, Mr. Safire pleads ignorance about how much intelligence information was "wrung out" of Mr. Buckley before he died. I was privileged to know Bill Buckley and, in addition to respecting and admiring him, I am reasonably certain that the *only* thing he consciously provided his terrorist captors in Lebanon was one hell of a hard time.

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